WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for controlling network traffic to a network computer which provides network computer services, the method comprising:

measuring capacity of the network computer to service the network traffic to obtain a signal;

providing a set of rule data which represents different policies for servicing the network traffic;

selecting a subset of the rule data based on the signal; and

throttling the network traffic to the network computer based on the selected subset of the rule data wherein services provided by the network computer are optimized without overloading the network computer.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the network computer is a server and wherein the network traffic includes requests for service from network clients over the network.

3. The method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the network is the Internet and the server is an Internet server.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the network traffic includes denial of service attacks.

5. The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising organizing the set of rule data in at least one multi-dimensional coordinate system.

6. The method as claimed in claim 5 wherein the capacity of the network computer includes load components or load component indices and wherein the dimensions of the at least one multi-dimensional coordinate system corresponds to the load components or load component indices.

7. The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the step of classifying network traffic to the network computer to obtain a plurality of traffic

classifications and wherein the step of throttling is based on the plurality of traffic classifications.

8. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the selected subset of rule data represents quality of service differentiations and wherein the network traffic is throttled so that the network computer provides quality of service differentiation.

9. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of throttling prevents substantially all of the network traffic from reaching the network computer.

10. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of throttling allows substantially all of the network traffic to reach the network computer.

11. A system for controlling network traffic to a network computer which provides network computer services, the system comprising:

a monitor for measuring capacity of the network computer to service the network traffic to obtain a signal;

a storage for storing a set of rule data which represents different policies for servicing the network traffic;

means for selecting a subset of the rule data based on the signal; and

a controller for controlling the network traffic to the network computer based on the selected subset of rule data wherein the services provided by the network computer are optimized without overloading the network computer.

12. The system as claimed in claim 11 wherein the network computer is a server and wherein the network traffic includes requests for service from network clients over the network.

13. The system as claimed in claim 12 wherein the network is the Internet and the server is an Internet server.

14. The system as claimed in claim 11 wherein the network traffic includes denial of service attacks.

15. The system as claimed in claim 11 wherein the set of rule data is stored in at least one multi-dimensional coordinate system.

16. The system as claimed in claim 15 wherein the capacity of the network computer includes local components or local component indices and wherein the dimensions of the at least one multi-dimensional coordinate system corresponds to the load components or load component indices.

17. The system as claimed in claim 11 further comprising a classifier for classifying network traffic to the network computer to obtain a plurality of traffic classifications and wherein the controller controls the network traffic based on the plurality of traffic classifications.

18. The system as claimed in claim 11 wherein the selected subset of rule data represents quality of service differentiations and wherein the network traffic is throttled so that the network computer provides quality of service differentiation.

19. The system as claimed in claim 11 wherein the controller prevents substantially all of the network traffic from reaching the network computer.

20. The system as claimed in claim 11 wherein the controller allows substantially all of the network traffic to reach the network computer.